

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The cable ownership

cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

There is absolutely no competition now in the cable industry. My local cable company, AT&T Broadband, just notified customers of a price increase coming in January, 2002. This will bring the cost of Basic Cable service to well over \$45.00 per month what with all the taxes and other charges (most of which are nothing more than taxes disguised as something else). What is needed is some form of regulation as your brilliant idea of deregulation has not worked here, nor in any other place it has been applied for that matter. It is time for your agency to do the right thing and reign in these mergers and acquisitions--and reregulate the whole communications industry. I am very opposed to mergers of this caliber. The cable industry is not deserving of this nor are they deserving of being able to raise prices whenever they feel like it. I expect better things from the FCC than what it has been dishing out to consumer in the past.